

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please cancel sheet 3 of the formal patent drawings filed with the application and consisting of Fig. 5. Please replace that cancelled sheet with the enclosed Replacement Sheet 3, also consisting of Fig. 5.

REMARKS

Claims 71, 90 and 99-125 have been cancelled in the subject application in accordance with the Response to Restriction Requirement filed December 4, 2007. Applicants again expressly reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to those claims.

The drawings were objected to, in the Office Action of March 24, 2008 as including reference numerals 61 and 62, which are depicted in Fig. 11 but not mentioned in the description. In response, paragraph 052 of the Substitute Specification has been amended to include reference numerals 61 and 62 as referring to the ends of the printing blanket 41. The verified translation of PCT/DE2003/003942, which formed the specification of the subject U.S. application, as filed, identified elements 61 and 62, in the List of Reference Symbols, as printing blanket ends. The addition of these reference numerals to paragraph 052 of the substitute specification does not add any new matter and is believed to render the Examiner's first objection the drawings moot.

The drawings were also objected to a second time as failing to include reference numeral 35 which is included in the description at paragraph 029. In response, there is submitted herewith a replacement sheet 3 of the formal patent drawings and consisting of Fig. 5. Reference numeral 35 is now shown on Fig. 5. The submission of this replacement sheet does not constitute any new matter and is believed to overcome the Examiner's second objection to the drawings.

The Substitute Specification was objected to as having several minor informalities of a typographical nature. These have been corrected. Such corrections do not constitute any new matter and are believed to overcome the Examiner's objections to the specification. The Examiner's time and effort in reviewing the Substitute Specification and in noting the now corrected errors is appreciated.

Claims 65-70, 72-89 and 91-98 were objected to as having various minor informalities. The claims noted by the Examiner, as having these informalities, have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner to correct those informalities. The Examiner's time and suggestions are appreciated.

Claims 65, 66, 68, 70, 76 and 87 were rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 of U.S. patent No. 7,278,352. A substitute Terminal Disclaimer, PTO/SB/26 is being filed concurrently and is believed to overcome this rejection.

Claims 65, 68, 69, 85, 88, 89, 91, 92 and 94-98 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 70, 84, 111, 112, 114, 115, 119, 120, 121 and 122 of co-pending U.S. application No. 10/538,854. A suitable Terminal Disclaimer PTO/SB/25 is being concurrently filed and is believed to overcome this rejection.

Claims 72-75, 86 and 93 were objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable, if rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claim 65 has been amended to include the language of indicated allowable claim 72 and the language of intervening claim 70. Claim 65, as amended, is thus believed to now be allowable.

Indicated allowable, dependent claim 86 has been rewritten in independent form by the addition thereto of the language of base claim 65. It is to be noted that the language of claim 86, as filed, contained several errors. Claim 86, as filed, recited that the printing blanket unit has at least one of said first and second ends of a first thickness. There is no recitation of first and second ends in claim 65. Accordingly, currently pending claim 86 recites leading and trailing blanket ends, which term has proper antecedent basis in claim 65. In addition, claim 86, as filed noted that the exterior of the printing blanket at the end with the first blanket thickness extends in a radial direction of the printing blanket cylinder past a vertical exterior of the central area of

the printing blanket unit. The underlined term should be "virtual extension." In this regard, please note the discussion in paragraph 059 of the substitute specification and the depiction in Fig. 8 where the line v43 denotes that virtual extension of the central area of the printing blanket unit. Claim 86, as currently amended, is believed to now be in condition for allowance.

Indicated allowable claim 93 has been rewritten in independent form by the inclusion in it of the language of base claim 65. It is thus believed that claim 93, as currently amended, is also allowable.

The rejections of various ones of the claims, as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 4,635,550 to Brandt, or being unpatentable over Brandt have been noted. Since all of the claims now pending in the subject application are either independent claims that have been indicated as being allowable, or are dependent from one of such indicated allowable claims, no further discussions regarding those rejections are believed to be required.

SUMMARY

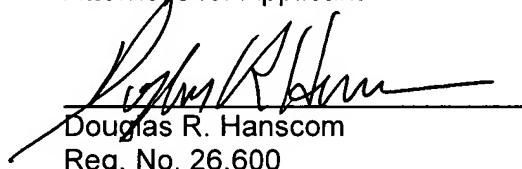
The Substitute Specification and drawings have been amended to overcome objections noted by the Examiner. Claims 72, 86 and 93, which were indicated as being allowable, have been presented in independent form. No additional fee is believed to be required. Claims 71, 90 and 99-125 have been cancelled in this application. Two Terminal Disclaimers are being filed concurrently with this Amendment.

It is believed that the claims which are currently pending in the subject U.S. patent application are patentable over the prior art cited and relied on. Allowance of the claims, and passage of the application to issue is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Andreas KÜMMET et al.
Applicants

JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
Attorneys for Applicant


Douglas R. Hanscom
Reg. No. 26,600

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JONES, TULLAR & COOPER, P.C.
P.O. Box 2266 Eads Station
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 415-1500
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